

CLUSTER: EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Component CE3:

Does the evaluation and assessment of child and family needs lead to identification of all child needs as well as all family needs, related to enhancing the development of the child?

Data Sources:

- State of Indiana Combined Enrollment Form
- Indiana Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) Form
- IFSP Physician Signature Page
- Statewide Peer Monitoring Reports
- Outcomes Evaluation Survey Forms
- Practice Manual
- SPOE Data Collection System
- Early Intervention Personnel Guide
- Service Definitions
- Central Reimbursement Office Provider Database
- Early Intervention Provider Matrix
- Quarterly County Profile Reports
- Quarterly Statewide Profile Reports

Performance Level: Meets Expectations

Conclusions

- The First Steps application is a combined enrollment application that is used to enroll children in other service systems for which they are eligible, including Medicaid, Maternal and Child Health programs and Children's Special Health Care Services. The application gathers comprehensive data from families allowing the family to tell their story once and gathers comprehensive demographic and social history information. The Medical Home of each child completes a health summary document.
- Indiana uses a standardized IFSP form that identifies information that addresses other child/family needs. Each intake/service coordinator is required to review this assessment with the family. Families may decline to complete the survey. The IFSP requires a signature from the family physician to confirm that the family's needs are being addressed.

- During the public forum process, the question, “Do all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families receive services they need?” 126 persons responded to the question, of which 26 surveys reflected that not all needs were met. 31 persons cited problems with specific provider availability, however there was partial indication that the child’s needs had been met.

Strategies:

- In the future, statewide outcome evaluation questions will be part of the intake and initial IFSP process. Pre- and post- Family Assessments surveys are being piloted. These surveys will give us information as to how well we are doing identifying family and child needs related to enhancing the development of the child. Portions of the statewide family surveys will also help gather this information.
- The lead agency will address the requirement for “other services” to be listed on the IFSP. Technical assistance may be given in the form of an issue clarification or agenda item at a Service Coordinator regional meeting.

INDICATOR ANALYSIS

Performance Indicator:

There are sufficient numbers of examiners to conduct and interpret required evaluations for eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

Data Sources:

- Central Reimbursement Office Provider Database
- SPOE Data Collection System
- Practice Manual
- Quarterly Statewide & County Profile Reports
- Early Intervention Provider Matrix

Conclusions:

- Indiana currently has 3,329 active enrolled providers. While experiencing some limited availability in specific disciplines, counties have been able to generally meet their child and family needs. When resources are limited, (speech therapy in particular) the IFSP teams have worked to identify how other members of the team can support the functional outcome identified on the IFSP.
- During public forums 20 surveys out of 122, noted a lack of availability of therapists, of which the majority were Speech Therapists.
- Indiana's Statewide Profile data shows that the following ongoing services were delivered for the period of April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|
| AssistiveTechnology | 1,479 | Nursing | 102 | Service Coordination | 14,713 |
| Audiology | 1,681 | Nutrition | 514 | Social Work | 118 |
| Developmental Therapy | 6,978 | Occupational Ther | 5,596 | Speech Therapy | 9,132 |
| Health Services | 2 | Other Services | 186 | Transportation | 226 |
| Interpreter Services | 94 | Physical Therapy | 6,482 | Vision | 56 |
| Medical | 36 | Psychology | 237 | | |

Although the information listed above is based on billing data for ongoing services, it is assumed that there was an evaluation conducted for the discipline prior to the initiation of service delivery. Based on this data, concern was expressed during the subcommittee process that counties might not be effectively utilizing services outside the four largest service types (DT, PT, OT, ST). An analysis of billing activity by county showed:

- 4% of counties used health services
- 17% of counties used nursing
- 27% used social work
- 51% used nutrition
- 52% used psych services
- 25% of counties used none of the above specialties
- 27% of counties used only one of the above
- 48% used two or more specialties
- 7% used four of five specialties

Strategies:

- The lead agency will identify counties with low utilization of specialty services to identify possible technical assistance opportunities to increase the knowledge and use of all service types.

Performance Indicator:

Qualified personnel conduct evaluations and interpret results.

Data Sources:

- Practice Manual
- Service Definitions
- Early Intervention Personnel Guide

Conclusions:

- Indiana's personnel standards establish the level of training required of service providers who are eligible to conduct evaluations and assessment. Only specialist-level personnel may conduct evaluation/assessment activities.
- Indiana's service definitions limit reimbursement for evaluation and assessment activities to those providers who meet the personnel standards.
- Four tools are recognized for developmental therapy for a global assessment activity: the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP); The Developmental Profile of Infants and Young Children (DPIYC); The Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS); and the Carolina Curriculum. Training was conducted on utilizing of these tools.
- Eligibility determination for the formation of an IFSP must include a service coordinator, the parent or guardian, and service providers from two separate disciplines

Strategies:

- Develop resource materials outlining the approved global assessments for Developmental Therapist. Include description of endorsed assessment tools in the service definitions.
- Provide endorse training on utilization of endorsed assessment tools and techniques